SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
808
DEC. 03
KELLY
FERRY
SMITH
SUPERGIRLS
I love to laugh and to hit bad people. ...Yeah. I love that even more than laughing.
– Mia, vagrant.
CITY OF STEEL
METROPOLIS
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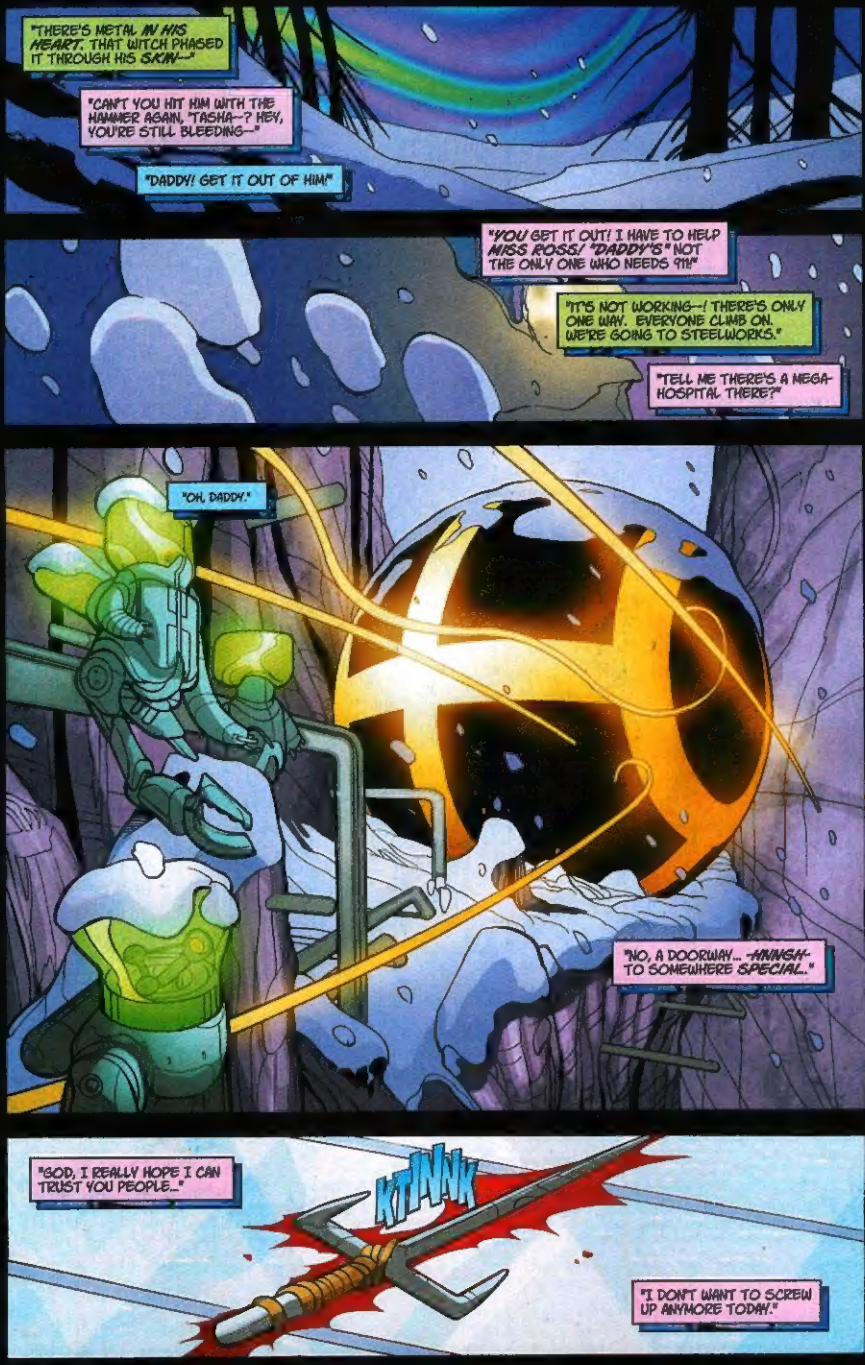
$2.25 US $3.50 CAN


"THERE'S METAL IN HIS HEART. THAT WITCH PHASED IT THROUGH HIS SKIN—"
"CAN'T YOU HIT HIM WITH THE HAMMER AGAIN, TASHA—? HEY, YOU'RE STILL BLEEDING—"
"DADDY! GET IT OUT OF HIM!"
"YOU GET IT OUT! I HAVE TO HELP MISS ROSS! "DADDY'S" NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS 911!"
"IT'S NOT WORKING—! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY. EVERYONE CLIMB ON. WE'RE GOING TO STEELWORKS."
"TELL ME THERE'S A MEGA-HOSPITAL THERE?"
"OH, DADDY."
"NO, A DOORWAY... -HHNGH- TO SOMEWHERE SPECIAL."
"GOD, I REALLY HOPE I CAN TRUST YOU PEOPLE..."
KTINNK
"I DON'T WANT TO SCREW UP ANYMORE TODAY."

DADDY. PLEASE LIVE, DADDY.

THANK YOU, TRACI.

DON'T THANK ME. I WAS ALL BUGGIN' FOR A BAND-AID WHEN HERO-GIRL THOUGHT TO MOVE THE PARTY HERE.

YOUR WOUNDS WERE INCREDIBLY *LASAT*, MRS. ROSS. THE TECHNOLOGY HOUSED IN THE *FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE* CAN HEAL YOU WITH EASE.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I DON'T THINK YOU WERE A *TARGET* FOR THE ASSASSIN.

HELLO *OPTIMIST*.

WITH THAT *PHASING* POWER OF HERS, SHE COULD HAVE PUT THE BLADES *ANYWHERE*, LIKE --*AHHGH*--

CASE IN POINT.

NAT! OH, GOD, IN ALL THE *DRAMA* I FORGOT YOU WERE--!

I ALMOST DID TOO. THAT'S MY POINT-- SHE COULD HAVE *KILLED* ME, BUT SHE DIDN'T--

HOLY-- YOU'RE BLACK?

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letters

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SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

Believing herself to be Superman's daughter from the future, the young champion calling herself SUPERGIRL has pledged herself to continuing his good work. However, as she learns more about her mysterious origins and her alter-ego, the homeless rebel MIA, gains dominance over her personality, Supergirl's world is poised to unravel in a most devastating way.

SUPERGIRL in ACTION COMICS!

HUNGRY GHOST

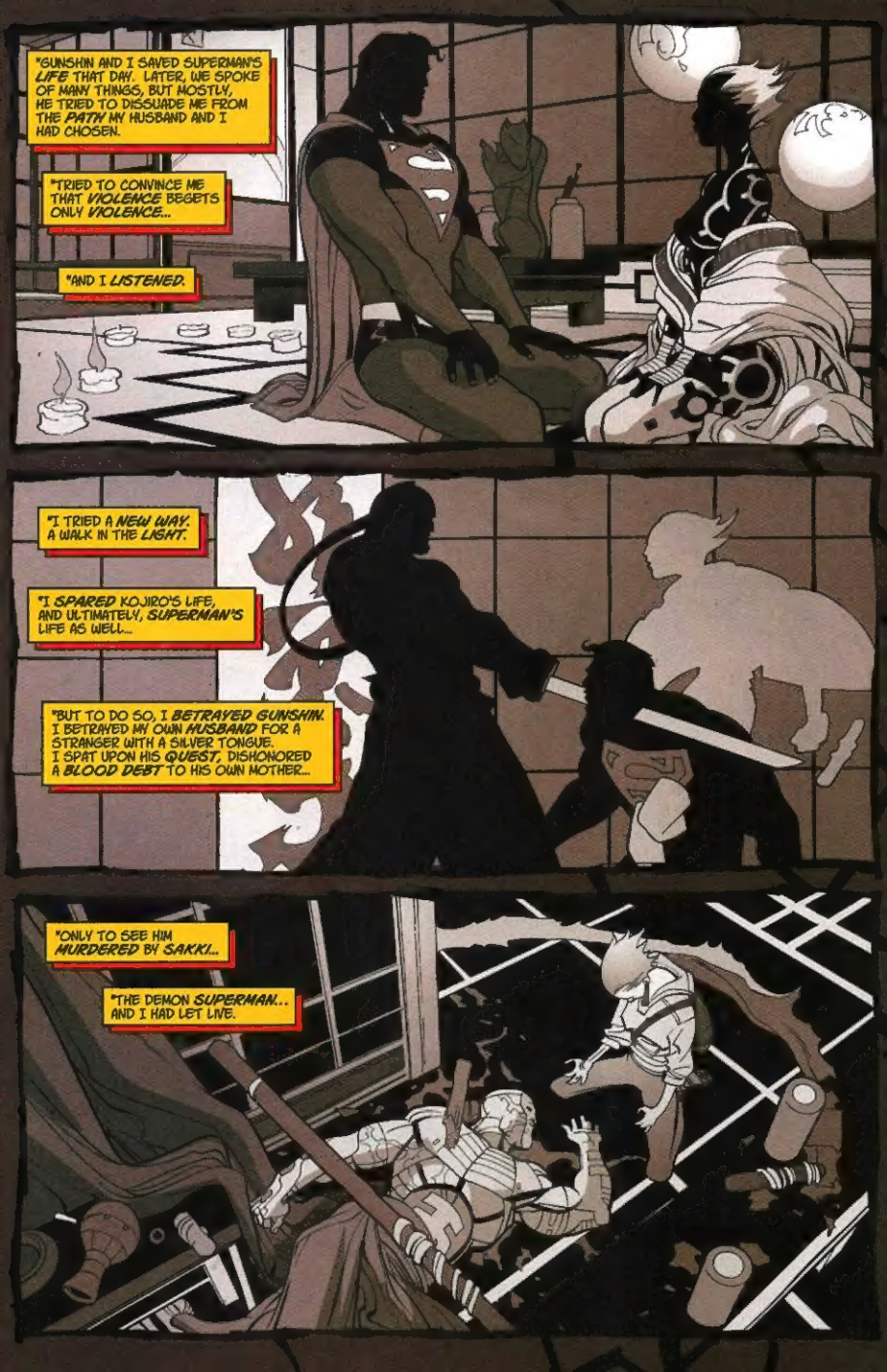
PART THREE BLOOD DEMANDS...

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I'M BLEEDING!
NO, I KNOW, I--
YOU REALLY SOUND WHITE, THOUGH. HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU--?
BLEEDING!
CHUNNKT
AAAAAAH!
KICK IT, MY BIZZLES! THE CRIB IS UNDER ATTACK!
HE LIVES IN A TEMPLE TO HIMSELF.
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT AS MUCH.
I NEVER CLOSED THE PORTAL FROM STEELWORKS.
OH GOD.

YOU'RE NOT COMING NEAR MY FATHER!
YES, I AM.
THEN YOU THREE "DAUGHTERS" WILL BE NEXT.
SON OF A --! SHE *@%# STABBED ME IN THE LEG! OWW OWW OWW!
FOR PITY'S SAKE, I TOOK ONE IN THE GUT AND I'M NOT FREAKING OUT--
YOU GOT THAT R&B BLOOD AND *@*#! I'LL NEVER DANCE AGAIN!!!
NO ONE LAYS THAT DISRESPECT IN THE HOUSE OF EL! YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN WITH A GRILL FULL OF ILL!
BRAKKABRAKKA
BRAKKABRAKKA

SPSSSST
AW. SHIZZNIT.
ENOUGH, LADY! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
MRS. ROSS! NO-- NNNGH!
YOU ARE... HIS WIFE?
I-- NO. NO, BUT--
BUT YOU LOVE HIM.
DID YOU BUILD THIS PLACE... THIS LIFE, TOGETHER?
YOU MUST KNOW... HOW IMPORTANT HE IS?
HE'S A GOOD MAN. YOU CAN'T KEEP HUNTING HIM LIKE THIS!
IT IS EXACTLY BECAUSE HE IS A GOOD MAN...
THAT MY HUSBAND IS DEAD.

"IT WAS A LIFETIME AGO NOW... IN TOKYO, THE MEREST WHISPER OF THE NAMES BYAKKO AND GUNSHIN WOULD CAUSE A HARDENED YAKUZA TO TREMBLE.
"ALL KNEW MY HUSBAND AND ME... THOUGH NONE WOULD ADMIT WE EXISTED UNTIL THEY BEGGED US FOR MERCY.
"WE WERE VENGEANCE MADE FLESH, SCOURING THE SHADOWS FROM JAPAN WITH AN UNMATCHED FURY.
"WE HAD BEGUN A WAR AGAINST THE DRUG LORDS IN TOKYO, FOCUSED ON A MAN CALLED KOJIRO, THE TIGER.
"GUNSHIN CARRIED A BLOOD DEBT AGAINST KOJIRO FOR THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER. KOJIRO KNEW MY HUSBAND'S THIRST FOR REVENGE WAS INSATIABLE, AND HIRED SARKK... A POWERFUL PSYCHOPATHIC MONSTER...
"...WHOSE LIFE WAS INTERTWINED WITH THAT OF SUPERMAN.
"YEARS BEFORE, A NAIVE SUPERMAN HAD FACED THE MONSTER AND LET HIM LIVE.
"FATE HAD BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER AGAIN, TO PUNISH HIM FOR HIS WEAKNESS."


"GUNSHIN AND I SAVED SUPERMAN'S LIFE THAT DAY. LATER, WE SPOKE OF MANY THINGS, BUT MOSTLY, HE TRIED TO DISSUADE ME FROM THE PATH MY HUSBAND AND I HAD CHOSEN.
"TRIED TO CONVINCE ME THAT VIOLENCE BEGETS ONLY VIOLENCE...
"AND I LISTENED.
"I TRIED A NEW WAY. A WALK IN THE LIGHT.
"I SPARED KOJIRO'S LIFE, AND ULTIMATELY, SUPERMAN'S LIFE AS WELL...
"BUT TO DO SO, I BETRAYED GUNSHIN. I BETRAYED MY OWN HUSBAND FOR A STRANGER WITH A SILVER TONGUE. I SPAT UPON HIS QUEST, DISHONORED A BLOOD DEBT TO HIS OWN MOTHER...
"ONLY TO SEE HIM MURDERED BY SAKKI...
"THE DEMON SUPERMAN... AND I HAD LET LIVE.

YOU LOOK AT ME NOW, WITH THE SAME EYES I TURNED TO HEAVEN... BEGGING FOR THE LIFE OF A MAN ALREADY LONG DEAD.
YOU SHOULD CLOSE YOUR EYES.
YOU SHOULD OPEN YOURS. I AM SO VERY SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND...
BUT CAN BLIND VENGEANCE HONOR TRUE LOVE? WILL MORE BLOOD HEAL YOUR HEART?
I--NNNGH
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT BEFORE?!?
I'M NEW AT THIS TOO. SUDDENLY STRUCK ME THAT SONICS MIGHT WORK.
WHAT!?! I CAN'T HEAR--
JUST SOMEONE HIT HER.

PWHOOOM
HEY, LOOK, YOU'RE NOT A GHOST. COOL.
NO ONE HURTS MY DAD.
AT LEAST YOU HAVE A FATHER.
MY CHILD WILL HAVE NO ONE.
Y-YOU– YOU'RE PREGNANT?
THWAKK!
LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER.

SUCH IS THE POWER OF BLOOD BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD
A LOVE I FEEL BURNING IN YOU... BUT ONE I WILL NEVER KNOW—
'CAUSE YOU'RE SO GREAT WITH KIDS.
YOU'VE LOST BLOOD. EVEN YOUR ARMOR WILL NOT SUSTAIN YOU FOR LONG.
IT JUST HAS TO BE LONG ENOUGH.
FLOOOSH
OH--!
WHOOPS

NNNNGH... OH. HELL
W-WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE, GHOST? BLOOD CAN'T BE THE ONLY WAY
IT IS. THINK OF THE SUFFERING YOU COULD AVERT IF YOU KILLED ME NOW.
NO. IT CAN'T BE THAT WAY. IT CAN'T. AND YOU CAN'T BE THAT STUPID.
DIDN'T SUPERMAN TRY TO HELP YOU? COULDN'T HE FIND YOUR HUSBAND'S KILLER?
HE DOESN'T KNOW.
YOU NEVER TOLD HIM, DID YOU?
HKKKT
SCHLLLLRRRP

S-SO THIS IS WHERE THE ZOO IS.
NEAT
NATASHA! HOLD ON!
WHIPPPT
SMASHH
HELP?
GODS. SUCH BEASTS. WHAT DO YOU DO HERE, CHOLLIN?
NATASHA? WAKE UP! WAKE UP!
FOR A SISTA, SHE'S GOT NO SENSE OF TIMING.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING MESSING AROUND WITH KID GAMERA OVER HERE?! WHERE'S THE JAPANESE SKEEZE?!
WHY AREN'T YOU WITH MY FATHER?!
BECAUSE HE'S STABLE AND YOU TWO ARE GETTING YOUR BUTTS KICKED!
ARGUE ABOUT IT LATER. WE HAVE TO HELP NAT AND--
SCHREEET
LEROY. TEAR THAT UGLY MO-FO A NEW--
SKREEEM

I'M S-SORRY.. I'M SORRY
THAT'S ALL RIGHT I DIDN'T WANT TO S-SEE SEVENTEEN ANYWAY
AFTER EIGHTEEN IT'S ALL DOWNHILL
HRRRRSSSK
HNNK

A SHRINE.
HE'S BUILT A SHRINE TO HIMSELF.

GUNSHIN LIVED AS A PAUPER MOST OF HIS LIFE TO FEED THE QUEST...
AND THE "HONORABLE, SELFLESS" SUPERMAN REEKS OF HUBRIS--
SOME OF THE JUNK IN HERE IS JUST MEMENTOS... BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT. I KNOW, YOU SEE, BECAUSE I'VE ASKED HIM.
LETTERS. FROM FAMILIES. KIDS. THANKING HIM FOR HIS HELP FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES.
Deer Superman thank you for saving my dad You are my Her nd I love you.
Timmy
THIS ROOM IS A RECORD OF LIFE.
A-A-AS A JOKE, HE CALLS IT THE TROPHY ROOM...
THERE ARE EVEN A BUNCH FROM CRIMINALS WHO HE SET ON THE RIGHT PATH. CRIMINALS HE DIDN'T KILL JUST TO "END THE SUFFERING--"
EVEN WITHOUT MY ABILITY TO GHOST, I CAN KILL ALL THREE OF YOU. I DO NOT WISH FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. WHEN HE IS DEAD.. IT WILL BE GOOD THAT SOMEONE CARRIES ON HIS WORK.
HE SET THESE EVENTS IN MOTION YEARS AGO. LET HE PUT AN END TO THIS.
PICK ANOTHER LETTER... I DARE YOU.

ARMS TOO TIRED FROM KICKING OUR BUTTS ALL OVER THE WORLD? OKAY...
AH, HERE'S ONE. IT'S ABOUT A FIFTY-FIFTY SPLIT, YOU SEE. HALF THANK HIM...
Superman Where were you when my husband DIED? Allison
AND HALF ASK WHY HE DIDN'T COME.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE MY MOMMY? WHY COULDN'T YOU SAVE MY WIFE?
HE KEEPS THEM ALL. HE HAS TO.
NOW, YOU TELL ME, SINCE YOU'RE THE EXPERT...
Help my daddy.
IS THAT A MAN FILLED WITH HUBRIS.. ?
OR BURIED UNDER HIS OWN SENSE OF HONOR?

I DIDN'T GET AN APARTMENT IN METROPOLIS TO WATCH YOU DIE.
NOT LIKE THIS... NOT LIKE THIS
KTANNK
AAAAH!

"TELL HIM, MRS. ROSS...
"HE HAS REMARKABLE CHILDREN. MY HUSBAND WOULD HAVE ADMIRED THEM VERY MUCH."
SO... DID WE WIN?
I DON'T THINK WE LOST. NO ONE'S DEAD. THAT'S A GOOD INDICATION WE DID SOMETHING RIGHT.
NO ONE OTHER THAN AN ENTIRE DETAIL OF SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, A PRICELESS ALIEN SPECIMEN, AND--
THAT DOESN'T COUNT. I MEAN... IT DOES, BUT--
WE BLEW IT.
GIRLS..?

THANK YOU.
YOU DID YOUR BEST, AND THEN SOME.
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU ALL.

THAT OUGHT TO DO IT. BEEN A DAY, HUH?
YOU SHOULD CALL LOIS.
YOU SHOULD CALL THE WHITE HOUSE.
YEAH.
WANNA TALK INSTEAD? YOU WAITED LONG ENOUGH WHILE I WAS DYING.
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY INCONSIDERATE OF YOU. PROMISE YOU WON'T DIE WHILE I'M GETTING A DIVORCE.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
WHAT IF BYAKKO COMES BACK?
SHE WON'T. BUT IF SHE DOES...
THE GIRLS'LL HANDLE IT.
END
KELLY FERRY Comics
03

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This Month's Cover by...
PASCUAL FERRY

NEW FLIGHT PLAN FOR ROBIN

"And you thought FABLES had creepy villains..."
—Editor Michael Wright

ROBIN #121 (DECEMBER, 2003)
Look for ROBIN to soar to new heights when FABLES storyteller **Bill Willingham** migrates to the series with issue #121. Joined by ZATANNA penciller **Rick Mays** and inker **Aaron Sowd** (DETECTIVE COMICS), the Eisner Award-winner introduces the Boy Wonder to a new school and cast, plus his greatest threat to date: Johnny Warlock, a bird-caller with a personal mad-on for all things Robin-related! Add ROBIN to your comics nest this November!

Next Month in...
Action Comics #809

Whodunnit? Who killed Jack Ryder? While on vacation with Lois, Clark is the prime suspect in a murder mystery – he's the only one without an alibi since he was off as Superman. By Joe Kelly, Pascual Ferry and Cam Smith.

The Hot List

BATMAN #620
The award-winning 100 BULLETS team of Brian Azzarello, Eduardo Risso, and cover artist Dave Johnson put their indelible stamp on the Dark Knight with the first installment of the 6-part story "Broken City!"

BATMAN: CITY OF LIGHT
A breathtaking new 8-issue miniseries by the Pander Brothers, Mark Paniccia and Alvaro Lopez (BATGIRL: YEAR ONE)! An architect transforms Gotham City into a "City of Light" using a mysterious glowing material that eliminates shadows.

SUPERMAN/BATMAN #3
The Man of Steel and the Dark Knight Detective face off against Gorilla Grodd, Solomon Grundy, Lady Shiva, and more!

THE LEGION #25
An extra-long issue kicking off the landmark 6-part story "Foundations" that brings Superboy into the Legion! Part 1 begins in Smallville, where a young Clark Kent is confronted by three oddly dressed teens...

WELCOME TO THE HUMAN RACE
We're only human...but GREEN LANTERN scribe **Ben Raab** and artistic phenom **Justiniano** (THE FLASH) know of a town whose residents are a whole lot more. Prepare to enter Shuster's Glen and THE HUMAN RACE, a 12-issue maxiseries that uncovers a centuries-old mission to protect the gene pool from outside manipulation. But be warned – when this race starts in early 2004, there's *no* stopping!

CLAWS FOR ALARM
We've already told you about CATWOMAN's new look when the art team of RELOAD's **Paul Gulacy** and **Jimmy Palmiotti** join writer **Ed Brubaker** with issue #25. Since then, we've received some mixed Bat-signals that The Penguin's calling in a very deadly Bat-foe to *declaw* Selina Kyle before she scratches out Gotham's mobs. That said, don't be *too* surprised if CATWOMAN goes to the *birds* this November!

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/indemand right now!

DINI & TIMM: BACK TO THEIR ROOTS
It's been *too* long since BATMAN: MAD LOVE came out, but pine no more – WB Animation legends **Paul Dini** and **Bruce Timm** reunite this November for a three-issue miniseries featuring the Demented Duo of HARLEY & IVY! Joined by inker **Shane Glines**, Dini and Timm take these madcap mistresses of mischief to South America in search of an exotic "Zombie Root," only to put them up against politicians, mercenaries...and Hollywood! And if Batman shows up too, then all the better!

-your MOLE at 1700

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